

Renewal

From the Pastor’s Desk

The Reverend Dr. Byron E. Shafer

The Gospel Lesson for Sunday, August 28, the day I’m writing this article, is Matthew 16:21–28, in which Jesus says (vs. 24): “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”

How poignant it was for me to read that passage from Matthew against the backdrop of the murder of Brother Roger Schutz while he was at prayer with young pilgrims on the evening of August 16 and of the funeral service conducted for him a week later with some 12,000 mourners in attendance, including official representatives of the World Council of Churches, the Vatican, most Protestant communions, and both the Russian and Romanian Orthodox churches. For you see, Brother Roger was a person who truly had denied himself, taken up his cross, and followed Jesus.

Brother Roger was born 90 years ago. He was the son of a Swiss Calvinist pastor, and, like us Presbyterians, he was a child of the Reformed Protestant heritage. In his early 20’s, he suffered a nearly fatal case of tuberculosis. During that illness, he felt Jesus calling him to the vocation of creating an ecumenical Christian community—Protestant and

Catholic—“where simplicity and kindness would be lived out as essential gospel realities.”

In 1940, during the Second World War, when Roger was just 25, he trav-

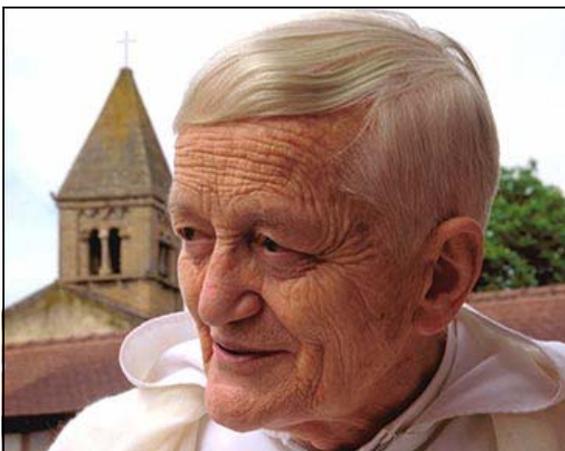


Photo from <http://www.taize.fr/>

eled westward from his homeland, neutral Switzerland, to the Burgundy region of eastern France, where his mother had been born. He journeyed to Taizé, a village located just a few miles on the “free” side of the demarcation line that then divided France into two zones—Nazi-occupied and not-yet-Nazi-occupied. Taizé was also located just a few miles from Cluny, where the most famous monastic abbey in all of Europe had been founded in the early 10th century and had stood until its destruction in the late 18th century, during the French Revolution. There in Taizé, with the assistance of a small loan, Brother Roger bought an abandoned house that came

complete with several outlying buildings, a simple complex well suited to the needs of the new monastic community he felt called to create. These structures soon became a place of life-saving hospitality for refugees slipping across from the Nazi-occupied part of France, many of whom were Jews fleeing certain deportation to Hitler’s death camps.

In 1942, as the Nazi control over France expanded, Brother Roger received a warning that he and his guests were about to be arrested, so he temporarily closed the house and relocated the refugees. In 1944, he was again able to return to Taizé, now with several new brothers.

After the war, Brother Roger’s monastic community began to take the shape it has today—with its

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From the Pastor's Desk

**"Very few people in a generation manage to change the whole climate of a religious culture; Brother Roger did just this."
- The Archbishop of Canterbury**

commitments to celibacy, simplicity of life, shared possessions, and a daily regimen of prayer and song. At the center of the community's life there stands a vast yet simple wooden church, called the Church of Reconciliation. It was built shortly after the war during a series of summer camps that united in labor and in acts of national and religious reconciliation both French and German youth, Protestant and Catholic.

In those years, the walls that separated Protestants from Catholics were high and forbidding. Yet Brother Roger dared to imagine Christianity's healing. And his ecumenical monastic community would go on to become a center for intimate spiritual encounters between Christians from every continent and confession—including Eastern Orthodox.

At any one time, the brothers of Taizé—Protestant and Catholic—number just 100 or so, yet their influence and impact have been felt worldwide.

In the 1950's, small groups of these brothers began living in some of the many places around the world where people were suffering—Africa, Asia, South America, and yes, New York City! In all of these places, the brothers have shared the living conditions of those around them—the destitute, street children, prisoners, the dying, those wounded by broken relationships. Indeed, the commitment of Taizé to the needs of the poor and the broken has been central to the community's purpose.

Then in the 1970's, the haunting chants and prayer melodies created for the Taizé liturgies came to be known and used far beyond the borders of France and the outlying communities of brothers. One of these

songs is used on many Sundays here at Rutgers. It's the "*Gloria*" that we sing thrice-repeated following the First Lesson (#576). Another of these chants we sing every Maundy Thursday, "*Ubi caritas, Live in Charity*" (SF #2179). Another we sing every Good Friday, "Jesus, Remember Me" (#599). And ten more of the Taizé chants and prayer melodies are included in *Sing the Faith*, the supplementary hymnal that we use (## 2013, 2014, 2017, 2054, 2118, 2156, 2157, 2195, 2198, 2200).

Since the founding of the "mother" community in Taizé, it has become a pilgrimage site. Some one thousand people a month, from many different countries and faiths, go there to pray and sing with the brothers. Guests are accommodated in a kind of gratis campground made up of re-used army tents—swords into plowshares! Some pilgrims stay only a day or two; others, for a week or more. On those occasions (such as Easter Sundays) when the Church of Reconciliation is not large enough to hold everyone present, it is simply expanded by removing the back wall! Many of the pilgrims are young people, and Brother Roger worked hard over the years to engage a number of them in ongoing correspondence, encouraging them to live the kind of life that makes God's compassion tangible to the persons-in-need they encounter.

Then on August 16 of this year, Brother Roger was unaccountably stabbed in the throat and killed by Luminita Solcan, a 36-year-old, mentally ill woman from Romania. In the kind of acts of national and religious reconciliation typical of the Taizé community, when Brother Rogers's simple wooden coffin was carried into the church it was followed in pro-

cession by a group of Romanian children who'd been visiting Taizé the day Brother Roger was killed. And the new leader of the community, Brother Alois Leser, a Roman Catholic, offered this prayer: "With Christ on the cross we say to you, [O God,] 'Father, forgive her. She does not know what she did.'"

During the past century, few people in all the world have done more to inspire unity among Christians than has Brother Roger. One of the sad realities of Christian separation is that neither Catholic nor Orthodox priests are permitted to offer communion to Christians of other denominations. Yet one of the largely unnoticed features of the funeral mass for Pope John Paul II was that during the distribution of communion the then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (now Pope Benedict XVI) broke with strict Catholic practice by personally serving a communion wafer to Brother Roger, even though the Cardinal knew that this brother was a Protestant. The Cardinal's act was indeed a sign filled with hope for the future of Christian ecumenism. And another such sign is this circumstance: the Eucharist at the funeral for this Reformed Protestant, Brother Roger, was celebrated by yet another Roman Catholic Cardinal, Walter Kasper, the president of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, and communion wafers were offered by him to all the faithful, regardless of denominational affiliation.

Fittingly, Cardinal Kasper's homily included this statement, "Yes, the springtime of ecumenism has flowered on the hill of Taizé in this Church of Reconciliation, where members of different Christian traditions meet in respect and dialogue, in

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Water, Water Everywhere!

Rutgers Vacation Bible School, August 22-26, 2005

Vacation Bible School had a record 35 children, ages 4-10, from both the church and neighborhood this year, with many adults and youth from Rutgers joining the fun. Children from the Rutgers Sunday School who attended were Cole and Drew French, Audrey and Graham Hill, DeYan Jervis-McCarthy, Susan Katz, Marlo



See the back cover for more VBS pictures!

Knapp-Fadani, Maddie and Jack Phelps, Nicholas Rodriguez, Lily and Trey Santiago, and Emmet and Ian Smith.

Our theme was "Water, Water, Everywhere!" and we focused on three stories: the first Creation story ("A wind from God blew over the wa-

ters," Genesis 1), Noah and the Ark (Genesis 7), and Jonah. The stories were told to us firsthand by Noah (Cheryl Pynch), Noah's wife (Holly Nedelka), Jonah (Nora Lidell), and the Big Fish (Jeffrey Glendon), who told us what it was like to have Jonah in his belly. These characters came to us through a Time Machine discovered by Nora, DeYan, and Nicky. Before VBS began, Norah, DeYan, and Nicky also painted backdrops of whales and other sea creatures.

Music was a big part of the week. Assistant music director Jean Kim taught us "Arky, Arky," "All Things Bright and Beautiful," and "Awesome God;" Clif Fisher, for the third year in a row, was our able accompanist. Children new to VBS also learned the Rutgers favorites: "Come and Worship God" and "Thank You, Jesus." Special guest Captain Roger (Roger Franklin) joined us to teach "A Whale of a Tale."

Children filled the space with beautiful art. Mary Birchard taught the older children how to make origami cats, snakes, whales, horses, and other animals. The older children also made creation and rainbow murals and clay figu-

rines. Susan Scherer led the children in a fabric mural of colorful animals. The younger children made paper bag puppets, many large paintings, an Ark mural, and animal masks.

We made good use of the gym, where we played the games "Sheep, Sheep, Camel," "Ship to Shore," "Octopus Tag," and "Who's the Boss?" among others. Ian Smith taught older kids the new and challenging game, "Conversation," and we also enjoyed kickball and basketball.

Finally, we created health kits (including towels, soap, toothbrushes, and other useful items) to be given by Church World Service to people who need to leave their homes when there is *too* much water.

VBS was both a calm and joyful week because of the skill, energy, and dedication of our many teachers. In addition to those mentioned above, Wanda Diaz, Jeffrey Glendon, Richard Hill, Abigail Nedelka, Holly Nedelka, and Angelika Rodriguez led the children in painting and clean-up, snack, and playtime. Thank you also to the Smith, Hill, and Jervis-McCarthy families for providing us with delicious snacks!

(Continued from page 2)

prayer and fraternal sharing, inspired by the presence and the example of Brother Roger."

And for Brother Roger's funeral, the Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams wrote as follows: "Very few people in a generation manage to change the whole climate of a religious culture; but Brother Roger did just this. He changed the terms of reference for ecumenism by the challenge to Christians of diverse loyalties to live the monas-

tic life together; he changed the image of Christianity itself for countless young people; he changed the churches' perception of the absolute priority of reconciliation, first in post-war Europe, then throughout the globe. And what is perhaps most important is that he did this without any position of hierarchical authority, without any position within the politics and power-struggles of the institution. His authority was authentically monastic—the authority of a father and elder

brother in God who drew his vision from patient waiting on the Lord in prayer, and from the work and study and discernment of a committed Community. His life and witness present the true Gospel challenge to all our Christian institutions, the challenge to become really credible through our willingness to live and listen in humility, to know where our true power lies."

Well done, good and faithful servant Roger. Enter now into the joy of your Master. ◊

Genocide in Darfur: What Can We Do?

by Christine Gorman

That was the title of the program at the West Side Synagogue on Thursday, June 9 at 7:30 pm. It sounds like a downer—and it was depressing to hear about what’s going on in western Sudan—how Arab militias are killing black Darfuri Muslims. So far, the Sudanese government has offered little resistance to the militias, and indeed may be actively encouraging them. Many European leaders have turned a blind eye to the bloodshed. Give credit where credit is due: the Bush administration was the first, and so far only, government to call these actions genocide.

But words alone cannot stop the killing or ameliorate the desperate situation many refugees face. About a dozen Rutgers folk, at least 2-3 dozen members of West End Synagogue, and various students and other interested people attended the lecture. Gerald Maratone, director of emergency response for the International Rescue Committee, talked about the history of the Darfur conflict and some things that activists and human rights groups are trying to do raise awareness and stir action that will bring a peaceful and just resolution to the problem. The program was sponsored jointly by West End’s

Social Action Committee and the Peace and Social Justice Network at Rutgers.

Mr. Maratone was excellent. He provided a realistic overview without dwelling on the more morbid or savage facts. And he gave us a sense that what we do and say here in the U.S. really can make a difference. Indeed, he reported that there’s a gathering movement on college campuses and in state capitals to divest from companies that do business in the Sudan. (U.S. companies by law are not allowed to do business with Sudan.) These actions may seem

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For a theological approach to this issue, see Dr. Shafer’s July 17 sermon entitled “Save Darfur!” in our online archive.

Fall Adult Education Offerings

The Preaching Life

Sept. 18 & 25 and Oct. 2
9:45 am in the Session Room
with Cheryl Pyrch

We’ll begin the adult class this fall by reading together *The Preaching Life* by Barbara Brown Taylor, a collection of essays and sermons on the life of faith and preaching of the Word. Although the essays are semi-autobiographical, this book is definitely not just for preachers! Barbara Brown Taylor, an Episcopal priest and Professor of Religion and Philosophy at Piedmont College, is known for her theological insight and her engaging and imaginative style. On September 18, we will discuss the first three chapters: “A Church in Ruins,” “Call,” and “Vocation.”

A copy of *The Preaching Life* (Boston: Cowley Publications, 1993) can be picked up at church on September 11 (or from Cheryl’s office any time after Labor Day) or ordered easily online. You may also find it in neighborhood bookstores or libraries. Our discussion will

be much richer on September 18 if people read the first three (short) essays beforehand, but please come even if you were not able to do the homework!

□

Saint Paul—Do We Really Know Him?

October 16, 23, and 30
9:45 am in the Session Room
with Scott Morton &

Mary Birchard

Attention will be paid to the firm, even stern, side of Paul’s nature and teaching, and also to his sense of the love of God and his caring for the new groups of Christians. Time will be given for questions and discussion.

□

And on Wednesday evenings,
October 19 and 26, from 7:00-9:00 pm in the Daniel Russell Room (refreshments at 6:30):

SONG

Sexuality: Our Needed Gift

Come to this workshop sponsored with Presbyterian Welcome and designed to offer a fresh, faithful look at sexuality. The first workshop looks at

sexuality in its most general form—the interplay of spiritual, emotional, and physical factors involved in sexual activity, relationships and identity—while the second workshop is a chance to talk specifically about the diversity of sexual identities, looking at what our faith says about Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender people.

A space will be open for frank discussion about sexuality in which diverse theological positions are welcomed and explored, and where we can voice common hopes for ourselves and for our children in lives of faith.

Led by Jenna Tiitsman, a graduate of Union Theological Seminary and candidate for ordination in the Hudson River Presbytery who has worked in HIV/AIDS prevention, sexuality education, and LGBTQ youth empowerment.

Cheryl Pyrch attended the workshop at First Presbyterian Church in NYC, and there was sharing (encouraged but never forced), laughter, and “ah-ha!” moments.

Look for news about our November classes coming later this fall...

(Continued from page 4)

small now, but add them together with continued pressure in the form of letters to members of Congress and the efforts of other people around the world, and soon you could see a groundswell for change. In any event, the groundswell certainly won't happen unless we have enough faith to take some of these smaller steps first.

I was also profoundly moved by the reaction of some of the West End members. One woman made the connection to the Holocaust and the murder of 6 million Jews, while so many

in Europe and the U.S. turned away. She was on the verge of tears thinking that another genocide could happen unopposed. Rabbi Yael Ridberg talked about watching the movie *Hotel Rwanda*, realizing that she was in rabbinical school during the 1994 Rwanda massacre and didn't notice what was going on. How easy it is, she lamented, for all of us—herself included—to ignore the misfortunes of people who don't look like us, or talk like us, or who live far away.

We didn't find the perfect solution. There is no cavalry riding to the rescue; the few

hundred African Union soldiers in Darfur are monitoring cease fire agreements with no mandate to enforce them. But that doesn't mean we get to sit on our posteriors. There is movement. Attention is being paid. You can visit www.savedarfur.org for more ideas on how to help. (Here's one small bit: I talked up the West End lecture to my editors, and *TIME* magazine published a short article on the Sudan divestment movement in the July 15 issue.)

No, words alone can't stop the killing. But silence just about guarantees it will continue. ♦

Rx for Survival: A Global Health Challenge

November 1-3, 2005, PBS, Channel 13, 9:00 p.m.

TIME Magazine Special Issue on Global Health: October 31, 2005

Global health has become one of the most important (and passionate) commitments of the Peace and Social Justice Network and the Benevolence and Christian Education Committees here at Rutgers. While there have been enormous medical advances and public health improvements in the past two centuries, the resurgence of "old" diseases such as malaria, new infectious diseases such as AIDS and SARS, and the increasing disparity between rich and poor have threatened these advances, especially among children. Life expectancy in many African countries has dipped to under 40 years of age. Surely Christ calls us to greater compassion and justice-seeking in the face of such suffering!

The first week of November we all will have a chance to learn more about the global health challenge through a PBS documentary and special issue of *TIME* magazine (in which our own Christine Gorman is involved). This media event is the launch for a *Rx for Child Survival Campaign* organized by a number of organizations, including UNICEF and CARE. This campaign

is an effort to create support for global health initiatives in the US and abroad.

Below is a description of the series *Rx for Survival* from the PBS website (<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/rxforsurvival/>):



"From vaccines to antibiotics, clean water to nutrition, bio-terror threats to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the six-part series *Rx for Survival* tells the compelling stories of global health champions and the communities they strive to protect.

Employing both historical dramatic sequences and poignant current documentary stories, the series will showcase key milestones in public health history, such as the eradication of smallpox, alongside modern and future challenges, including SARS, a potential global flu pandemic and recovery from the Asian tsunami catastrophe. Experts including Jeffrey Sachs, the Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University; author Laurie Garrett; Harvey Fineberg, President of the National Academies of Sciences Institute of Medicine; Nils Dau-laire, President of the Global Health Council; and Donald Hopkins, the Associate Executive Director of the Carter Center, will guide viewers through the ins and outs of this complex but fascinating story."

The P&SJNI will be alerting you to other educational events and opportunities for action. In the meantime, mark your calendars to watch *Rx for Survival*, November 1-3, at 9:00 pm and look for the October 31 special issue of *TIME* magazine as, together, we learn more about this issue and what we can do to help.

See also *Rx for Survival: Why We Must Rise to the Global Health Challenge* by Philip J. Hilts (Penguin Books), the companion book to the PBS series.

INQUIRERS INQUIRERS INQUIRERS

Considering church membership?

You've always known worshipping God is good for your spirit; now doctors confirm that worshipping God is also good for your body! If you are looking for a spiritual home in New York City, we invite you to our next Inquirers class, which will be held from 7:00—8:30 pm on **Monday evenings, October 3 and 17**. Come with your questions about God and faith, family, current events, and how these all connect in the life of this church. Members are also invited to meet new folks and revisit your own faith, hopes, beliefs, and experiences that led you to our family at Rutgers.

New members will be received at the service of worship on Sunday, October 23, and welcomed at a luncheon following the service.

Thursday Night Meals...

Every **Thursday night**, from Labor Day through June, Rutgers opens its doors at **6:00 pm** to an average of 45 people who need a meal. The majority of our diners are regulars, but there are always some new faces. Preference is given to seniors, who usually make up about half the group. We are proud to be able to serve these people tasty, home-cooked food in a relaxed and caring atmosphere.

Thursday night volunteers start showing up at 5 pm to prepare the meal. At 6 pm we serve; by 7 pm our diners are happy and well fed, and those of us who have remained to clean up are finished and out the door – a maximum of two hours! To volunteer, please contact Ulla Farmer (212) 744-5313 or Kim Hodges (212) 580-4276.

...and Movies

FREE ADMISSION

hosted by Dr. Roger Franklin



Sept. 15 Flight of the Phoenix (2004)

A cargo plane crashes in the Gobi Desert. One eccentric passenger leads the crew to build a new plane.

Sept. 22 School of Rock (2003)

A heavy metal guitarist, in order to make ends meet, poses as a substitute teacher at a snooty prep school.

Sept. 29 Hotel Rwanda (2004)

Once you find out what happened in Rwanda, you'll never forget.

Oct. 6 Racing Stripes (2004)

Meet Stripes, an abandoned zebra who dreams of becoming a racehorse in this heart-warming comedy.

Oct. 13 Two Brothers (2004)

A pair of sibling tiger cubs is separated when their father is killed by a hunter.

h o m e c o m i n g

On **Sunday, September 18**, help us launch a new program year with a full array of church school classes, choir activities, and worship services. At 12:45 pm, the Special Events Committee will serve our **Homecoming Potluck Luncheon**. Bring your favorite dish to share, and drop it off on the fifth floor before the worship service. To help us coordinate dishes, please call the church office (212) 877-8227 or Trustee R. Wellington Jones (212) 865-4764. Students and other visitors will be our guests!



Rutgers Shelter Returns September 16

In collaboration with Christ & St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, we house 10 homeless men each weekend (Fri-Sat-Sun nights), providing an evening meal, a safe place to sleep in the gym, and breakfast in the morning. Evening visitors as well as overnight hosts are encouraged. **Please contact Dermonte at x203** for more information or to volunteer!



2005 Peacemaking Offering

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to Guide Our Feet into the Way of Peace. (Luke 1:79)

These words are a message of hope for us. As Christ has made real God's promised dawn, he breaks into a world torn by the shadows of violence, destruction, and death. And Christ, the Prince of Peace, offers to guide our feet even today into the way of peace.

We will be receiving the Peacemaking Offering on World Communion **Sunday, October 2**. 25 percent will support a local peacemaking ministry chosen by the Rutgers' Peace & Social Justice Network; 25 percent goes to synods and presbyteries; and 50 percent will be forwarded to the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program. Look for more information soon, and please give generously!

Elders, Deacons, and Trustees:

Please remember the **Officers Retreat** on Saturday, October 1 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at House of Hope.

We look forward to this time of discernment and envisioning the future together!

September into October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sept. 11 Sunday School & Choir resume; 12:45 pm Board of Deacons; P&S/JN Meeting	12 3:00 pm Worship Cmte	13 Primary Election; 6:30 pm Session	14	15 6:00 / 7:00 pm Meal & Movie	16 Men's Shelter re-opens; 6:00 pm Scout Rally	17
Fall Body & Spirit and Child's Play Sessions Begin						
18 9:45 am Adult Class: <i>The Preaching Life</i> 12:45 pm Homecoming Luncheon	19 6:00 pm Cub Scouts Every Monday	20 6:00 pm Boy Scouts; Men's Support Group (PLWA) Every Tuesday	21	22 6:00 pm Meal Program & 7:00 pm Movie Series Every Thursday	23 11:00 am Mothers' Bible Study Every Friday	24 Presbytery Meeting at Olivet Presbyterian Church, Staten Island
25 9:45 am Adult Class: <i>The Preaching Life</i>	26	27	28	29	30	Oct. 1 9 am—3 pm Officers Retreat at House of Hope
2 9:45 am Adult Class: <i>The Preaching Life</i> 12:45 pm Board of Deacons	3 3:00 pm Worship Cmte 7:00 pm Inquirers Class	4	5	6	7	8
Men's Overnight Shelter: Every Fri • Sat • Sun						
9 No Adult Class	10 Columbus Day Church and offices closed	11 6:30 pm Session Meeting	12	13	14 1:00 pm GrandParent Family Apts. Grand Opening	15

<i>Sundays</i>	
9:30 am	Infant and Child Care
9:45	Sunday School for Adults
10:00	Adult & Children's Choir Rehearsals
11:00	Worship Service
11:15	Sunday School (ages 3-11)
12:15 pm	Coffee Hour
12:30	Choir Rehearsal

Preaching Schedule

- September 11* Observance of 9/11; 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Holy Communion; Dr. Shafer preaching
- September 18* Homecoming Sunday; Dr. Shafer preaching
- September 25* 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Dr. Shafer preaching
- October 2* World Communion Sunday; Peacemaking Offering; Dr. Shafer preaching
- October 9* 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time; the Rev. Charles Amstein preaching

October into November

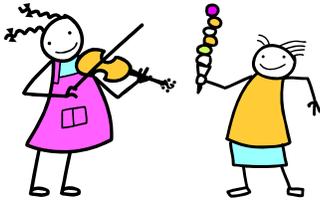
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
16 9:45 am Adult Class: <i>Saint Paul</i> Through Oct. 30 12:45 pm P&SJN Meeting	17 6:00 pm Cub Scouts Every Monday 7:00 pm Inquirers Class	18 6:00 pm Boy Scouts; Men's Support Group (PLWA) Every Tuesday	19 7:00 pm SONG Workshop Part I	20 6:00 pm Meal Program & 7:00 pm Movie Series Every Thursday	21 11:00 am Mothers' Bible Study Every Friday 6:00 pm Scout Potluck	22 Presbytery Day at Riverside Church
23 12:45 pm Friends/New Members Lunch 4:00 pm Organ Recital	24 6:30 pm Benevolence Committee Meeting	25	26 7:00 pm SONG Workshop Part II	27	28	29 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Men's Overnight Shelter: Every Fri • Sat • Sun </div>
30	31	Nov. 1 6:30 pm All Saints' Gathering	2	3	4	5
6 9:45 am Adult Class TBA 12:45 pm Board of Deacons	7 3:00 pm Worship Cmte 6:30 pm Session Meeting	8 General Election	9 10:00 am Adult Class: <i>Messiah Texts</i> Through Dec. 14	10	11	12
13 12:45 pm Peace & Social Justice Network	14	15 1:00 pm Presbytery Meeting	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Tues or Wed: West Side Thanksgiving Service </div>	23	24 Thanksgiving Church closed 12—3 pm Meal served at Euclid Hall	25 Holiday Church & offices closed	26

Sundays

9:30 am	Infant and Child Care
9:45	Sunday School for Adults
10:00	Adult & Children's Choir Rehearsals
11:00	Worship Service
11:15	Sunday School (ages 3-11)
12:15 pm	Coffee Hour
12:30	Choir Rehearsal

Preaching Schedule

<i>October 16</i>	29th Sunday in Ordinary Time; the Rev. Cheryl Pynch preaching
<i>October 23</i>	Invite-a-Friend Sunday; Reception of New Members; Dr. Shafer preaching
<i>October 30</i>	Reformation Sunday; Dr. Shafer preaching
<i>November 6</i>	All Saints' Day Observed; the Rev. Charles Amstein preaching
<i>November 13</i>	Stewardship Commitment; Holy Communion; Dr. Shafer preaching
<i>November 20</i>	Reign of Christ Sunday; Dr. Shafer preaching



Invite a Friend to Your House of Worship

When you want to share your faith with new friends.

When you want to be part of a loving community.

When you want to feel welcome, we're here.

Sunday, October 23

The organ celebration continues!

Rutgers' own **George Davey** will give a **recital** on our new 70-rank Southfield Organ on **Sunday, October 23 at 4:00 pm**. He will play works by J. S. Bach, Enrico Bossi, César Franck, Eugene Gigout, and P. D. Q. Bach, among others. Please join us for an afternoon of fabulous music highlighting the scope and versatility of this amazing instrument. Look for flyers, invitations, and more details about the music selections coming in September.

We invite you to an All Saints' Gathering

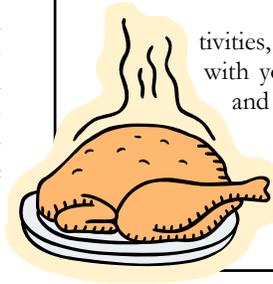
on **Tuesday, November 1 at 6:30 pm** where we will pray and meditate together in the narthex as we commemorate and celebrate the lives of loved ones who have died, but whom we still hold in our hearts. There will be an opportunity to share remembrances as well. Last year's gathering was a healing experience for all those who attended. (This service is part of the ministry of Rutgers' Board of Deacons.)

THANKSGIVING AT EUCLID HALL

Thursday, November 24, from 12:00—3:00 pm

For the fifteenth year, friends and members of Rutgers Church will provide Thanksgiving dinner for residents of Euclid Hall, an affordable, supportive housing residence for senior citizens and for individuals coming out of the New York City shelter system. It is located at 2345 Broadway and 86th Street and operated by the West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing.

If you are unable to join us for the festivities, please call Sue Spears at (212) 724-7351 with your offering of food: rolls, stuffing, fruit, and desserts are needed.



*"What life have you if you have not life together?
There is no life that is not in community.
And no community not lived in praise of God."
- T.S. Elliot*

New Times, New Call

Presbytery Day

Saturday, October 22 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Come learn about what other Presbyterian churches in New York City are doing! This is an opportunity for cross-fertilization of ideas, plus there will be a guest speaker on World Christianity and plenty of workshops—for those of you interested in the AIDS Pandemic, GLBT issues, inter-religious dialogue, and more. Come for all or part of the day at Riverside Church, 490 Riverside Drive at 121st Street.

september, october, and november

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 6 Bruce Graham | Jeannie Santiago 2 |
| 12 Max Bohan | Margaret Williamson 3 |
| 14 Charles Amstein | Andy Achsen, 5 |
| 18 Susan Scherer | Frankie Manzanet, |
| 24 Peter Gonzales | Lynne Morris |
| 28 Robert & Scott
Muirhead-Shepetin | Graham Wyatt 6 |
| 30 José Meléndez | Warwick Busfield 9 |
| | Cliff Flanders, 13 |
| 1 Jacquelyn Carpenter | Richard Hill |
| 2 Marcia Fawwaz | Samantha Manners 15 |
| 3 Melissa Chun-Vecsey | Mark Young 18 |
| 5 Liza Knapp-Fadani | Jon Smith 21 |
| 6 David Halstead | Pamela Byrd 22 |
| 7 Paula McNamara | Marshall Williamson 23 |
| 8 Frances Manners | Ruben Santiago 24 |
| 10 Natalie Graham-Kay | Audrey Hill 30 |
| 12 Charlotte & Catherine
Coudal-Jones | |
| 13 Mildred Saunders | |
| 17 Bill Himmelbauer | |
| 18 R. Wellington Jones | |
| 21 Vera Roberts | |
| 22 Roger Franklin | |
| 23 Lili Bohan | |
| 30 Lisa Simpson | |

Happy Birthdays!



Fall Movie Nites...

FREE ADMISSION

hosted by Dr. Roger Franklin

Oct. 20_ Connie and Carla_(2004)

After witnessing a mob hit, Connie and Carla are forced into hiding in a West Hollywood club. There they find work posing as a "drag queen" act!

Oct. 27_ The Phantom of the Opera_(2004)

Lose yourself in "the music of the night" of Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's Tony-winning film musical in the catacombs beneath the Paris Opera House @ 1870.

What Happened at Session?

by Elder Christine Gorman, Clerk of Session, and Elder Robert Shelton, Clerk Pro-tem

Here are some highlights from the regularly scheduled Session meeting of **June 5, 2005**. You can always get the full Session minutes by sending an email to Jennifer (jhanson@rutgerschurch.com).

1. R. Wellington Jones wrote to thank us for the presentation of a flame of hope for all the work he has done for the past 18 years organizing the opera to benefit the Rutgers shelter.

2. As of May 31, 2005, revenues year-to-date were \$722,473, and expenses were \$696,443, giving a surplus of \$26,030. Contributions and bequests from the congregation are at 40%, which is slightly below budget for the year. They were at 41% at this point last year. A motion passed to receive the church operating budget report.

3. Chris Jones reported that the CROP walk in April was more successful than last year.

4. A motion passed to set the following regular Session meeting dates (on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm unless otherwise noted):

Sept 13, 2005

Oct. 11, 2005

Mon., Nov. 7, 2005

Dec. 13, 2005

Jan 10, 2006

Sun., Feb. 5, 2006 at 12:45 pm

March 7, 2006

April 4, 2006

May 9, 2006

June 13, 2006

July 11, 2006

5. A motion passed to approve Anne Barstow as a commissioner to Presbytery by virtue of her role as a member of Council for Witness to Society in the World.

□

Here are some highlights from the regularly scheduled Session meeting of **July 12, 2005**.

1. A motion passed to endorse a letter to President Bush regarding the genocide in Darfur (see text below).

2. Bruce Bergquist was designated the Disaster Ministry Liaison for Rutgers Church.

3. A motion passed to continue prohibiting all flash photography during worship services.

4. The Session approved a request by the American Waldensian Society to hold a 100th anniversary convocation at Rutgers Church from March 26-28, 2006.

5. The Session approved the baptism of Ryan Phelps, pending his parents joining the church on New Member Sunday, October 23.

6. Berit Ou Yang and Jose Rugel were removed from the membership roll, at their request.

OPEN LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT ON THE GENOCIDE IN DARFUR

In September 2004, your Administration rightfully recognized that the crisis in Darfur constitutes a genocide. Yet the U.S. has failed to respond to this genocide with the urgency that is required. As the death toll in Darfur continues to mount, it is clear that nothing short of international intervention can protect the people of Darfur. We call on you to assert U.S. leadership to ensure such an international intervention takes place as a matter of the greatest urgency.

Up to 400,000 people have lost their lives in Darfur since the government-sponsored genocide began in 2003. More than 2.5 million people have been displaced, their livelihoods and villages destroyed by government forces and their proxy militias, and many thousands of women and girls have been raped by these forces....

We urge you to immediately take the following steps:

First, the U.S. must assert leadership at the United Nations (UN) by circulating a resolution calling for a stronger civilian protection mandate for the African Union mission and for a broader international force under chapter 7 of the UN Charter.

Second, the U.S. must encourage the UN to quickly approve and assemble a robust international force to integrate or co-deploy with the African Union and reinforce its efforts. Such a force can be assembled with troop contributions and financial & logistical support from additional countries within and outside the African continent.

Mr. President, genocide is a unique crime and it requires a unique and urgent response. We can still save thousands of lives in Darfur if we act now. We look to you to provide strong leadership to stop the genocide in Darfur by supporting an international intervention force to protect the people of Darfur as a critical first step to bringing peace and stability to this troubled region.

The P&SJN wants to thank all **103** friends and members of Rutgers Church who signed the **Africa Action Petition** demanding that President Bush and the U.S. government take action with the UN and the African Union to stop the genocide in Darfur, Sudan. We have forwarded our signatures to Africa Action. Watch for news around September 8—when they deliver the petition to the President.

Grand Opening: PSS/WSF GrandParent Family Apartments

by David Taylor, Executive Director, PSS

On June 1, after more than seven years of work and planning, the dream of Presbyterian Senior Services (PSS) and the West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing (WSFSSH) came true when the first grandparent family moved into the newly constructed residence. What was once a vision is now a reality.

I still remember that first cold and bleak winter day when the Reverend Laura Jervis, Martin McCarthy, and I piled into Laura and Martin's car and drove to the Bronx for the first of hundreds of meetings with the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA). To build, we had to convince NYCHA to sell or lease its property to PSS and WSFSSH: not an easy task when you consider the property consisted of 29,000 square feet of undeveloped land and was valued close to \$400,000. In the end, NYCHA agreed to lease the property at one dollar a year for 99 years. For almost five years, from 1998 to 2003, Laura, Martin, and I shuttled from one



endless and seemingly fruitless meeting to another, trying to convince the powers that be that building this residence was the right thing to do. It was like trying to get the Queen Mary II to change its course and find a new port of entry.

Finally in 2001, a new Chair of NYCHA was appointed by Mayor Giuliani. Shortly afterwards, I heard that the new Chair was speaking at a conference sponsored by the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies that I planned to attend. So after the Chair finished his speech, I hurried out of the room and firmly planted myself in front of the exit door. As he exited, I grabbed his hand, gave him my two-minute sales pitch, handed him a paper describing the residence, and told him the Commissioner of the Department for the Aging supported the project and would be speaking to him about it.

Bingo! The Commissioner for the Department for the Aging spoke to the Chair. The Chair embraced the project. Within a week, Laura, Martin, and I were sitting in the Chairman's office. Many more months of arduous and difficult negotiations followed, especially for the

development team, West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing.

I tell this story because the journey has at times been one of hope, despair, anguish, and exhilaration. But most importantly, during this long odyssey PSS and WSFSSH had friends, supporters, and families who never wavered in their belief that the dream would come true. One of those families was Rutgers. So as we close one chapter and open another, it is only fitting that both Boards of Directors and staffs of Presbyterian Senior Services and the West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing say thank you, Rutgers, for your acting as a conduit for a planning grant, for your words of support, for your vote of confidence, and for your generosity.

Because of Rutgers' support, today fifty grandparents and their grandchildren have a safe, affordable, and nurturing home. As one grandchild in joyful elation shouted out, "You mean I have my own bed and don't have to sleep in grandma's bed?" We look forward to seeing you at the **Grand Opening on Friday, October 14 at 1:00 pm** (*date is tentative*).

What Do You Think?

1. You can't explain to a person who doesn't get involved that even though it's draining, it is also very rewarding.
2. You can forgive if you choose to do so.
3. On really hot days, envision iced tea, lemonade, and walking in the snow.
4. Everyone has history to talk about.
5. Don't give up your dreams to make someone else happy.
6. Do you acknowledge when you're wrong?
7. How many categories of friends do you have?
8. Common sense is underestimated.
9. The longer it takes to achieve your goals, the more precious they become.
10. Contract employees are helping to eliminate permanent employment benefits.

'Til next time, Jacquelyn M. Carpenter

An Exciting Year for Scouts at Rutgers

by Scoutmaster Louisa Berry

It is with a great deal of excitement that Troop and Pack 664 look forward to the coming year. Our opening event will be a kick-off meeting (on the 5th floor) for old and new scouts to be held Friday, September 16. Meetings will begin the following Monday and Tuesday. As in previous years, first, second, and third grade Cub Scouts will meet on Monday night from 6:00 to 7:30 pm; Webelos and Boy Scouts will meet on Tuesdays at the same time. Meetings are a mix of skill building, citizenship, teamwork, and fun.

Camping begins almost immediately with two trips in October. From September 29 to October 2, the Webelos and

Boy Scouts will camp with friends on Fire Island. Then everyone—Cub Scouts through Boy Scouts—will go to Alpine Scout Camp for the weekend of October 14 to 16.

Other special highlights for Boy Scouts this year include a swim meet, ski trip, and camp-o-ree, plus monthly camping trips. For Cub Scouts there will be an ice skating party, Pinewood Derby, fishing, and several camping trips.

The units will also participate in several community service activities. Last year we played Santa to a family that would not have had Christmas otherwise and worked on several activities for the men in the Rut-

gers shelter program. Our plan is to continue those activities, and more, this year.

Look for us this fall when we hope to be selling Boy Scout popcorn to raise money to support our activities. And in February, we will celebrate our annual Scout Sunday during Sunday worship. If you'd like to hear more about what we do, please come on Sept. 16th. Everyone is welcome—whether you're 6 or 60, or anywhere in between. Young people can register as Scouts; anyone over 18 can be a leader. If you can't make it on the 16th, come to a meeting or speak to Louisa Berry (212-249-1546 or 212-807-4253; email landerson@edc.org).

Real Announcements Made in Other Churches

from Susan Scherer

1. The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

2. The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water." The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus."

3. The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been canceled due to a conflict.

4. Don't let worry kill you off—let the Church help.

5. Miss Mason sang "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

6. For those of you who have children and don't

know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

7. Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

8. Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Jack's sermons.

9. At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What Is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

10. Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

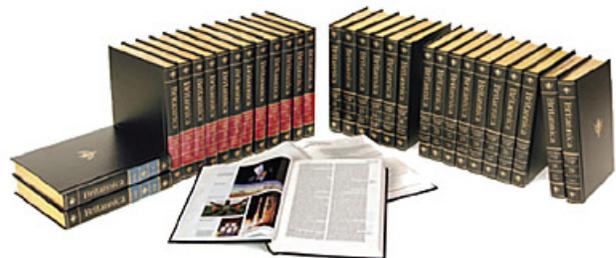
11. Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 pm—prayer and medication to follow.

12. Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 pm. Please use the back door.

13. The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Encyclopedia Available from Dr. Vera Roberts

FREE: Complete set, in good condition, of the *Encyclopedia Britannica* 1958 edition: 24 volumes plus 17 volumes of year-books through 1977. Yours to take away! Call me at (212) 873-1274. I have voicemail but will be away through September 13 for the birth of my great grandniece in Texas.



My Night Out: June 30, 2005

by Margaret Shafer

25 bodies prone on the sidewalk outside City Hall Park. Under the gray blankets from Midnight Run, the homeless men and women were indistinguishable from their friends sleeping in solidarity with them for the 21st year of the Interfaith Assembly on Homeless and Housing's (IAHH's) Convocation and Vigil.

This year the weather was a perfect 70 without a hint of rain until the final moments of tidying up in the morning. The park was beautiful, the concrete clean. It was a night that met the utopian ideal of everybody's being on the same level. For some, it felt like a noble sacrifice to leave comfortable apartments for hard pavement; for some timid souls, the threat of the mean streets was frightening; for some, it felt like a cross between a slumber party and a reunion. Among the two dozen folk present were a few currently homeless, several "alumni" of IAHH programs, lots of church folk, and a handful of interns.

People shared their life stories around the circle, and we laughed and cried together. WNYC reporter Cindy Rodriguez taped their stories. Later I captured more extensive oral histories of eight of the homeless folk on tape. We enjoyed our surroundings and the beautiful fountain when we bedded down in the park. We tried not to think about the rats running at high speeds back and forth across the walks.

I was struck by two commonalities as I listened to people telling their very different histories and dreams. One was tragedy, usually the death of a family member, that had precipitated their spiral into homelessness. The other thread was community. When the person was down and out, they found themselves begging God to save them

from this horror. The beginning of recovery came when someone reached out to them in response to the individual's cry to God. It was a human contact, not a flash of lightning or winning the lottery. Never have I heard more powerful testimony as to why we need to be faithful in outreach. We are obviously part of God's plan.

By midnight most of us were asleep. At 1:30 am, we were awakened by the park police who had to lock the park. We sleepily evacuated ourselves, our paraphernalia, and our banners to the sidewalk just outside the gate. Someone wished for a switch to turn off the street lights, but I just pulled my blanket over my head and was back to sleep in minutes.

At about 3:15, some of us we were awakened again. This time it was an electrical repairman for the city. He had to pull up the grating under our feet so he could go down into an electrical substation. Who would have guessed there was anything under that sidewalk? An assistant got our feet rearranged, but one reluctant homeless man had to move. She and his friends had a hard time persuading him; sleepy people are sometimes short of grace.

Two hours later, I woke with a start, thinking someone else was trying to rouse me by brushing my leg. My shudder scared off the rat on top of my blanket, and it ran into the gutter. I thought the rats would be too scared to come right up to humans, but now I really know that they could attack. I'm thankful it was on top of and not under my blanket!

Actually, I was thrilled as well as comforted by my ugly gray blanket. One of the homeless men had given it to me when we thought it was the last one. It

was one of the FEMA blankets we see so often on the street. This one, still in its plastic wrap, had a sticker that read "Disaster Response Blanket." I was reminded again of the distinction most folk make between the sudden disasters FEMA is famous for and the slow, ongoing disaster of homelessness in which FEMA, with food and blankets, sustains so many lives with little fanfare. I loved my ugly blanket for the night.

After my 5 am wake-up call from the furry creature, no way was I going back to sleep. I observed how many different trash collecting trucks there are and how they all seem to take one of the streets next to the park. A surprising number of pedestrians passed the sleeping bodies, presumably on their way to work. I debated heading for home but decided I might miss something—I had already invested so much time.

I am glad I stayed for breakfast and the closing circle. It was interesting to hear everyone's reflections on what the night meant to them, from the young homeless man who happened by and found a sense of community to the Outreach Committee of an upscale church who found camaraderie with new homeless friends. Some struggled with their sense of guilt over privilege; others absolved them and expressed appreciation for all caring people. Marc Greenburg gave an inspiring sermon from an old Sufi prophet he met many years ago who said that none of us are guaranteed homes or palaces. When we die is when we come home to the heart of God. If we want permanence now, we must open our hearts to the heart of God, and our eternal life can begin now. That eternal life is so much better than any temporary dwelling on this earth.

Amen and amen.

The men's shelter at Rutgers needs your help! To learn more, or to volunteer as a host for an upcoming Friday or Sunday night, call Dermonte at x203.

Rutgers Presbyterian Church

236 West 73rd Street
New York, NY 10023

Phone: 212-877-8227
Fax: 212-721-9154

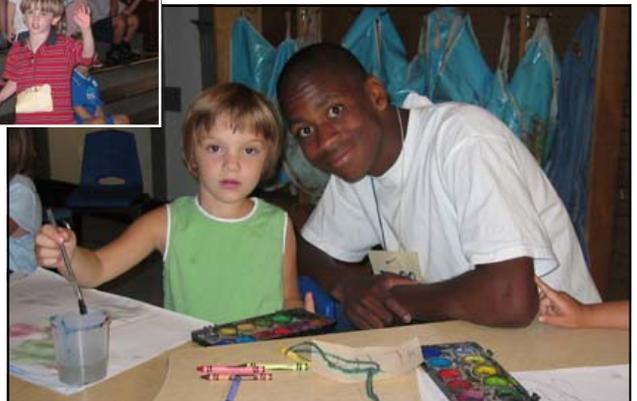
We're on the web!
www.rutgerschurch.com



You can find more pictures (in color!) from the 2005 Rutgers Vacation Bible School on display in the Church House throughout September.



Clockwise from top left:
painting Noah's ark;
origami snakes with Mary
Birchard; Jeffrey
Glendon with Lily B.;
Clif Fisher at the piano.



Center:
"Arky, Arky" during our
closing program